



9. The method of claim 8 further comprises assigning a tracking code to each of said different electronic mail addresses that are to be used for said different advertisements having the same focus to track activity of said different electronic mail addresses across the different media.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a report based on receiving said incoming electronic mail.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a report based on how many of said incoming electronic mails have been received that are addressed to said one of the registered electronic mail addresses.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving requests to register said electronic mail addresses.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising screening said requests.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending said outgoing electronic mail.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising sending a follow-up electronic mail to said one of the electronic mail addresses.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending a fee required electronic mail that includes a link for paying a fee to receive said outgoing electronic mail.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating comprises including an order form in said outgoing electronic mail.

TOGETHER

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying an electronic link that can be selected to automatically create said incoming electronic mail.

21. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for referring future ones of said outgoing electronic mail to other electronic mail addresses.

22. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option to store personal information at the central facility.

23. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail from their user equipment, a selectable option for creating a folder for storing said outgoing electronic mail on said user equipment.

24. The method of claim 1 further comprising logging an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail into the central facility to review said outgoing electronic mail.

25. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option to receive access to past ones of said outgoing electronic mail.

26. The method of claim 1 further comprising determining whether user equipment from which said incoming electronic mail was sent is capable of displaying graphics in said outgoing electronic mail.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating comprises including graphics in said outgoing electronic mail.

28. The method of claim 1 further comprising attaching a file to said outgoing electronic mail.

29. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the promotional information for one of said information disseminators for storing the promotional information in said database.

30. The method of claim 1 further comprising giving the information disseminators access to said database.

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31. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating cumulative tracking information for said one of said registered electronic mail addresses; and

forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

32. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating tracking information for said incoming electronic mail; and

forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

33. The method of claim 1 wherein the creating comprises configuring said outgoing electronic mail to return information on actions taken when said outgoing electronic mail is received.

34. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving comprises receiving said incoming electronic mail that includes a security code.

35. The method of claim 1 wherein the storing comprises providing in the promotional information for one of said information disseminators an electronic mail template.

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36. The method of claim 34 wherein the creating comprises using said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the creating comprises inserting an individual tracking code in portions of said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.

38. The method of claim 35 wherein the creating comprises inserting in said electronic mail template an individual tracking code to replace instances of symbol "~" in said electronic mail template.

39. A central information dissemination system that makes information available to the public, comprising:

means for registering electronic mail addresses at a central facility for different information disseminators that distribute promotional information;

means for storing, in a database at the central facility, the promotional information for each information disseminator in association with the electronic mail address of that information disseminator;

means for receiving an incoming electronic mail at the central facility, said incoming electronic mail addressed to one of the registered electronic mail addresses; and

means for creating in response to the incoming electronic mail, an outgoing electronic mail

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that is based on the promotional information associated with the registered electronic mail address of said incoming electronic mail.

40. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for publishing said one of the registered electronic mail addresses to inform the public of the availability of the promotional information that is associated with that one of the registered electronic mail addresses.

41. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for tracking activity of the registered electronic mail addresses.

42. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for assigning a global tracking code to each registered electronic mail address

43. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for assigning an individual tracking code to the incoming electronic mail.

44. The system of claim 36 wherein the means for registering comprises means for registering different electronic mail addresses for one of said information disseminators that are each to be used for different advertisements having the same focus.

45. The system of claim 44 further comprises means for assigning a tracking code to each of said different electronic mail addresses that are to be used for said different advertisements having the same focus

TOGETHER







59. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for referring future ones of said outgoing electronic mail to other electronic mail addresses.

61. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail from their user equipment, a selectable option for creating a folder for storing said outgoing electronic mail on said user equipment.

63. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a

selectable option to receive access to past ones of said outgoing electronic mail.

64. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for determining whether user equipment from which said incoming electronic mail was sent is capable of displaying graphics in said outgoing electronic mail.

65. The system of claim 36 wherein the means for creating comprises means for including graphics in said outgoing electronic mail.

66. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for attaching a file to said outgoing electronic mail.

67. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for receiving the promotional information for one of said information disseminators for storing the promotional information in said database.

68. The system of claim 36 further comprising means for giving the information disseminators access to said database.

69. The system of claim 36 further comprising:

means for generating cumulative tracking information for said one of said registered electronic mail addresses; and

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means for forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

70. The system of claim 36 further comprising:

means for generating tracking information for said incoming electronic mail; and

means for forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

71. The system of claim 36 wherein the means for creating comprises means for configuring said outgoing electronic mail to return information on actions taken when said outgoing electronic mail is received.

72. The system of claim 36 wherein the means for receiving comprises means for receiving said incoming electronic mail that includes a security code.

73. The system of claim 36 wherein the means for storing comprises means for including in the promotional information for one of said information disseminators an electronic mail template.

74. The system of claim 73 wherein the means for creating comprises means for using said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.

75. The system of claim 74 wherein the means for creating comprises means for inserting an

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176





84. The system of claim 82 further comprising different media used for publishing each of said different advertisements.

85. The system of claim 84 wherein the central facility is configured to assign a tracking code to each of said different electronic mail addresses that are to be used for said different advertisements having the same focus to track activity of said different electronic mail addresses across the different media.

86. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to generate a report based on receiving said incoming electronic mail.

87. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to generate a report based on how many of said incoming electronic mails have been received that are addressed to said one of the registered electronic mail addresses.

88. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to receive requests to register said electronic mail addresses.

89. The system of claim 88 wherein the central facility is configured to screen said requests.

90. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to send said outgoing electronic mail.

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91. The system of claim 90 wherein the central facility is configured to send a follow-up electronic mail to said one of the electronic mail addresses.

92. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to send a fee-required electronic mail that includes a link for paying a fee to receive said outgoing electronic mail.

93. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to include an order form in said outgoing electronic mail.

94. The system of claim 77 further comprising user equipment of an information requestor that is configured to display an electronic banner that can be selected to automatically create said incoming electronic mail.

95. The system of claim 77 further comprising user equipment of information requestor that is configured to display an electronic link that can be selected to automatically create said incoming electronic mail.

96. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to provide to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for downloading a software program that displays a selectable icon that automatically populates a portion of an electronic mail address field.

FOIA b 7 - D

97. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to provide to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for referring future ones of said outgoing electronic mail to other electronic mail addresses.

98. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to provide to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option to store personal information at the central facility.

99. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to provide to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail from their user equipment, a selectable option for creating a folder for storing said outgoing electronic mail on said user equipment.

100. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to log an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail into the central facility to review said outgoing electronic mail.

101. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to provide to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option to receive access to past ones of said outgoing electronic mail.



generate tracking information for said incoming electronic mail; and

109. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to configure said outgoing electronic mail to return information on actions taken when said outgoing electronic mail is received.

111. The system of claim 77 wherein the central facility is configured to receive in the promotional information for one of said information disseminators an electronic mail template.

113. The system of claim 112 wherein the central facility is configured to insert an individual tracking code in portions of said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.



incoming electronic mail, an outgoing electronic mail that is based on the information associated with said one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

118. The method of claim 116 further comprising tracking individual tracking information related to said incoming electronic mail.

119. The method of claim 115 wherein the disseminating comprises disseminating said information using electronic mail.

120. The method of claim 115 wherein the registering comprises registering said electronic mail addresses that each have a same second-level domain name for said fixed portion.

121. The method of claim 115 further comprising receiving a request from one said information disseminators to register a particular code in registering one of said electronic mail addresses.

122. The method of claim 115 further comprising associating the information related to one of said particular subject matter with more than one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

123. The method of claim 115 further comprising tracking each of said electronic mail addresses.

124. A system comprising:

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

means for publishing one of said code portions in connection with said particular subject matter with which that code portion is associated; and

125. The system of claim 124 further comprising means for receiving an incoming electronic mail at the central information disseminator service, said incoming electronic mail being addressed to one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

126. The system of claim 125 wherein the means for disseminating comprises means for creating in response to the incoming electronic mail, an outgoing electronic mail that is based on the information associated with said one of said registered electronic mail addresses.





a global identifier for a central information dissemination service, and (2) a code portion, said code portion of each electronic mail address being associated with particular subject matter and associated with information related to that particular subject matter that one of a plurality of information disseminators is to disseminate;

media for publishing one of said code portions in connection with said particular subject matter with which that code portion is associated; and

the central facility being further configured to disseminate on behalf of said one of said plurality of information disseminators, said information associated with said published one of said code portions.

134. The system of claim 133 wherein the central facility is configured to receive an incoming electronic mail, said incoming electronic mail being addressed to one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

135. The system of claim 134 wherein the central facility is configured to create in response to the incoming electronic mail, an outgoing electronic mail that is based on the information associated with said one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

136. The method of claim 134 wherein the central facility is configured to track individual tracking information related to said incoming electronic mail.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

138. The system of claim 133 wherein the central facility is configured to register said electronic mail addresses that each have a same second-level domain name for said fixed portion.

140. The system of claim 133 wherein the central facility is configured to associate the information related to one of said particular subject matter with more than one of said registered electronic mail addresses.

142. A machine-readable storage medium encoded with a set of machine executable instructions for using a central facility to perform a method for providing a central information dissemination service that makes information available to the public, comprising:



146. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein the registering comprises registering different electronic mail addresses for one of said information disseminators that are each to be used for different advertisements having the same focus.

147. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises assigning a tracking code to each of said different electronic mail addresses that are to be used for said different advertisements having the same focus to track activity of said different electronic mail addresses across the different advertisements.

148. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises assigning a tracking code to each of said different electronic mail addresses that are to be used for said different advertisements having the same focus to track activity of said different electronic mail addresses across the different media.

149. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises generating a report based on receiving said incoming electronic mail.

150. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises generating a report based on how many of said incoming electronic mails have been received that are addressed to said one of the registered electronic mail addresses.

FOIA b 7 - D

151. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises receiving requests to register said electronic mail addresses.

152. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 151 wherein said method further comprises screening said requests.

153. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises sending said outgoing electronic mail.

154. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 153 wherein said method further comprises sending a follow-up electronic mail to said one of the electronic mail addresses.

155. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises sending a fee required electronic mail that includes a link for paying a fee to receive said outgoing electronic mail.

156. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein the creating comprises including an order form in said outgoing electronic mail.

157. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises displaying an electronic banner that can be selected to automatically create said incoming electronic mail.

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158. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises displaying an electronic link that can be selected to automatically create said incoming electronic mail.

159. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for downloading a software program that displays a selectable icon that automatically populates a portion of an electronic mail address field.

160. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option for referring future ones of said outgoing electronic mail to other electronic mail addresses.

161. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail, a selectable option to store personal information at the central facility.

162. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises providing to an information requestor that sent said incoming electronic mail from their user equipment, a selectable option for creating a folder for storing said outgoing electronic mail on said user equipment.

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169. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises giving the information disseminators access to said database.

170. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises:

generating cumulative tracking information for said one of said registered electronic mail addresses; and

forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

171. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein said method further comprises:

generating tracking information for said incoming electronic mail; and

forming a communications connection with one of said information disseminators to access the cumulative tracking information.

172. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein the creating comprises configuring said outgoing electronic mail to return information on actions taken when said outgoing electronic mail is received.

173. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein the receiving comprises receiving said incoming electronic mail that includes a security code.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



174. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 142 wherein the storing comprises providing in the promotional information for one of said information disseminators an electronic mail template.

175. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 174 wherein the creating comprises using said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.

176. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 175 wherein the creating comprises inserting an individual tracking code in portions of said electronic mail template to create said outgoing electronic mail.

177. The machine-readable storage medium of claim 175 wherein the creating comprises inserting in said electronic mail template an individual tracking code to replace instances of symbol "~" in said electronic mail template.

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